



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,874	12/08/2003	Roger Maitland	50587-8 /aba	1165
7380	7590	10/26/2006	EXAMINER	
SMART & BIGGAR P.O. BOX 2999, STATION D 900-55 METCALFE STREET OTTAWA, ON K1P5Y6 CANADA			LANE, JOHN A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2185
DATE MAILED: 10/26/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/728,874	MAITLAND ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jack A. Lane	2185	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 39-45 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the amendment filed 09/05/2006. Claims 1-45 are presented for examination. A portion of the 105 requirement for information has been repeated below.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claims 1-38, drawn to a scheduling system, classified in class 713, subclass 502.
 - II. Claims 39-45, drawn to a CAM used in a scheduling system, classified in class 711, subclass 108.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions Group I and Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of Group II has separate utility such as in a caching device having a CAM and RAM. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. The examiner requests identification of all independent claim limitations identified in the list below that are known to exist in the background art discussed in the Background of the Invention section of the present specification. That is, for each claim limitation (including structural and functional limitations linking claim elements, e.g. coupled to, responsive to) identify a corresponding prior art element by page, line, and/or fig. Since applicant is most knowledgeable of the present invention and the background art, a discussion of the prior art with respect to the instant claims is essential

The examiner is specifically looking for at least the following claim limitations (independent claims 1, 18 and 37) that appear to represent the main invention(s)/embodiment(s):

Responsive to a prompt...looking up...event information.

Forwarding...event information to...processing engine.

This request does not require a search. Support for this request is derived from 37 CFR 1.56 (applicants duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim) and 1.105, however, it is not intended to interfere with or go beyond that required under 37 CFR 1.56 or 1.105.

In the Remarks filed 09/05/2006, applicant states the following with respect to the 105 requirement for information:

As for the Examiner's request...to identify which claim limitations can be identified in a prior art document or the background of the invention section, there is no basis for this request and as such Applicant respectfully is not providing a response.

In response, applicant must reconsider the request and the following from 37 CFR 1.56 excerpted below:

The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned.

Once again, if applicant is aware of the existence of the claim limitations identified above in the Background art, applicant is required to submit such finding to the examiner.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for Official communications intended for entry)

Or:

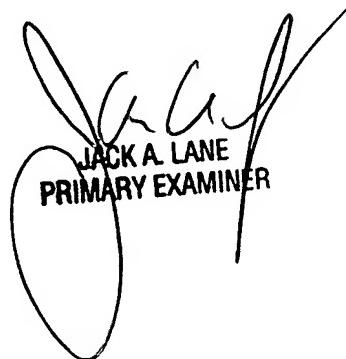
(571) 273-4208, (for Non-Official or draft communications, please label "Non-Official" or "DRAFT")

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack A. Lane whose telephone number is 571 272-4208. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sanjiv Shah can be reached on 571 272-4098.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272-2100.



JACK A. LANE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jack A. Lane", is written over a large, roughly oval-shaped outline. Below the signature, the words "PRIMARY EXAMINER" are printed in a bold, sans-serif font.